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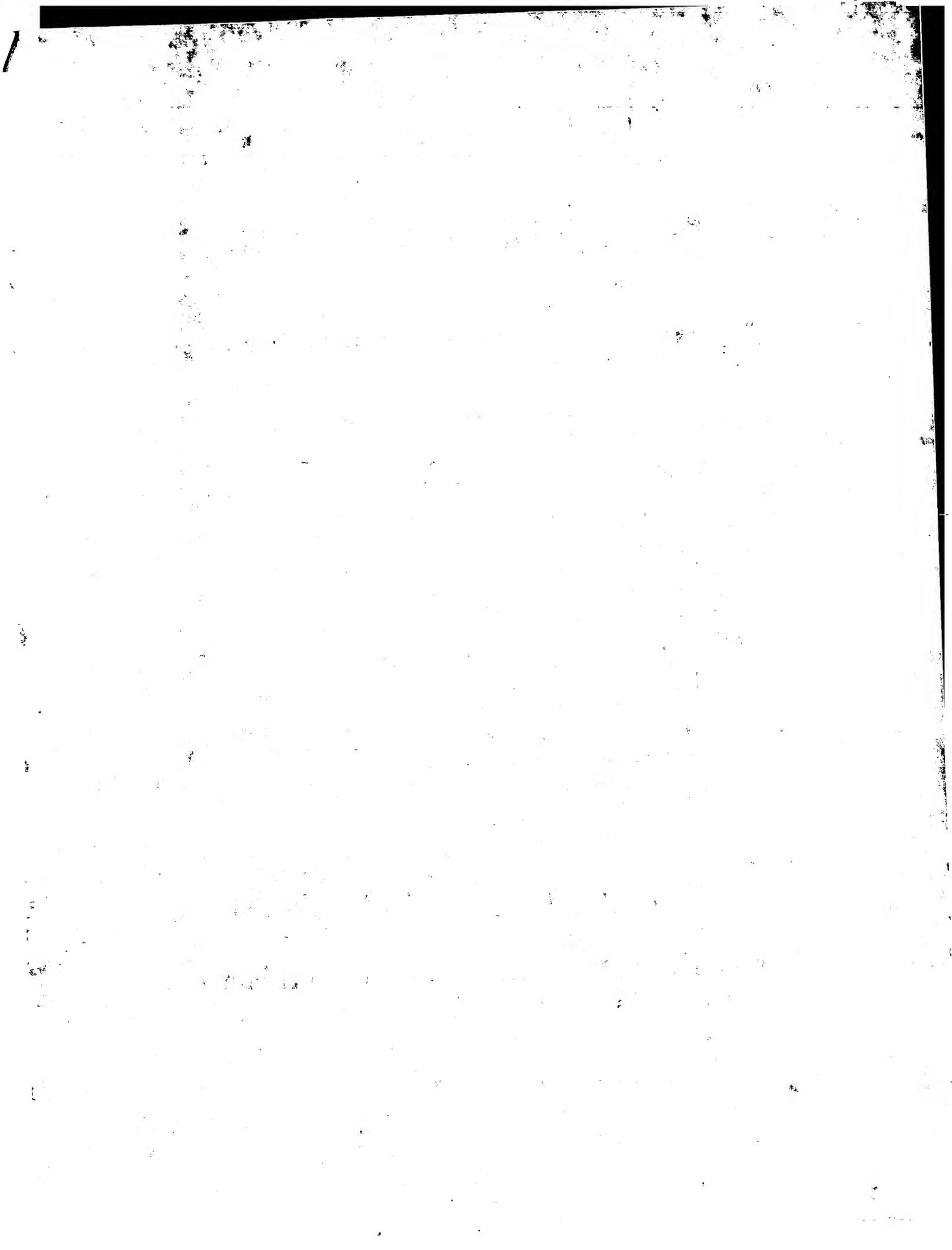
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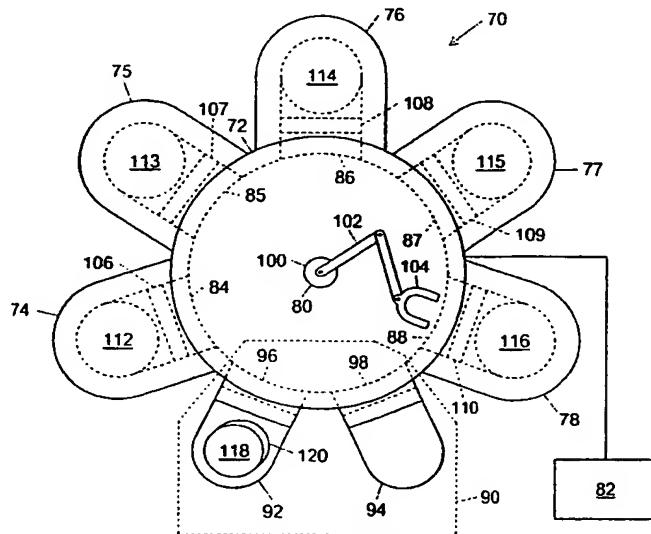
(30) Priority Data: 60/163,121 2 November 1999 (02.11.1999) US (71) Applicant: TOKYO ELECTRON LIMITED [JP/JP]; Akasaka 5-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-8481 (JP).

(72) Inventors: BIBERGER, Maximilian, A.; 737-6 Loma Verde Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94303 (US). LAYMAN, Frederick, Paul; 433 Miwok Court, Fremont, CA 94539 (US). SUTTON, Thomas, Robert; 1790 Chevalier Drive, San Jose, CA 95124 (US). Published: — with international search report

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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUPERCRITICAL PROCESSING OF MULTIPLE WORKPIECES



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for supercritical processing of multiple workpieces comprises a transfer module, first and second supercritical processing modules, and a robot. The transfer module includes an entrance. The first and second supercritical processing modules are coupled to the transfer module. The robot is preferably located with the transfer module. In operation, the robot transfers a first workpiece from the entrance of the transfer module to the first supercritical processing module. The robot then transfers a second workpiece from the entrance to the second supercritical processing module. After the workpieces have been processed, the robot returns the first and second workpieces to the entrance of the transfer module. Alternatively, the apparatus includes additional

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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

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International Application No

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H01L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 91 12629 A (BOK) 22 August 1991 (1991-08-22)  abstract; figures 29-32 page 21, line 12-14 page 22, line 33 -page 23, line 11	1,7-11, 15, 17-21, 23-30,33
A	---	31,32
X	WO 99 18603 A (APPLIED KOMATSU TECHNOLOGY, INC.) 15 April 1999 (1999-04-15)  page 6, line 30 -page 7, line 3 page 8, line 23-30	1-3,5,6, 9,12-15, 17-23, 25,27-33
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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation or document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 934 856 A (ASAKAWA ET AL.) 10 August 1999 (1999-08-10)	1-11, 15, 17-21, 23, 25-30, 32, 33
A	abstract; figure 10 column 16, line 46 -column 17, line 46	31
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 10, 31 August 1998 (1998-08-31) -& JP 10 144757 A (DAINIPPON SCREEN MFG CO LTD), 29 May 1998 (1998-05-29) abstract	1, 9-11, 15-23, 25-30, 33
A	-& US 6 077 321 A (ADACHI ET AL.) 20 June 2000 (2000-06-20) figure 1	31, 32

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

Information on patent family members

International Application No

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